Non-technical Abstract:

The development of a safe and effective vaccine to prevent HIV infection is a global health priority. Wyeth Research is developing a combination HIV vaccine regimen. One vaccine is made from DNA, genetic material containing part of an HIV gene called *gag*. Another kind of vaccine, HIV CTL MEP, is made with parts of proteins that mimic limited portions of HIV. These vaccines are given with adjuvants, substances used to stimulate the immune system to increase the response to the vaccines. One of the adjuvants, a gene called *IL-15* DNA, might help the immune system keep a "memory" of how to fight HIV. It is hoped that using these vaccines one after another in a combination vaccine approach may be able to raise enough immunity to protect against HIV. The study will involve 144 healthy adult participants who do not have HIV. In the trial, some people will get one kind of vaccine for initial and later booster vaccinations, some will receive one kind of vaccine for initial vaccinations and a different vaccine for booster vaccinations, and some people will receive a salt water solution without any HIV vaccine. The multicenter, randomized, placebo-controlled, double blinded study will be done at three sites through Harvard University. Other sites may be added later. None of the vaccines can cause HIV infection or AIDS.
Similar vaccines have been tested in monkeys, and the effect of the vaccines on the immune system could be measured in the blood.
The main purpose of the present study is to make sure that the vaccines and the adjuvants are all safe and cause no serious or bothersome side effects.